

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claim rejections set forth in the Office Action dated October 20, 2006.

Summary

Claims 1, 4 – 6 and 9 – 20 are withdrawn.

Claims 21 and 22 are currently amended. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Claims 23 – 26 are added.

Claims 21 – 26 are currently pending.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner withdrew from consideration claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 20 in light of "the amendment dated 8/2/2006 and the response to Election/Restriction dated 3/17/2005" (Office action dated October 20, 2006).

Claims Rejections

Claim 21 was rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshii et al. (JP 2002-022913). Claim 22 was rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,361,163).

Yoshii et al. fail to disclose or suggest the structural claim limitations recited in amended claim 21. Yoshii et al. fail to anticipate the claim limitations pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Therefore, claim 21 is allowable over the cited reference because Matsuda et al. fail to disclose or suggest the structural claim limitations recited in amended claim 22. Yoshii et al. fail to anticipate the claim limitations pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Therefore, claim 22 is allowable over the cited reference.

New Claims

Claims 23 – 26 are currently added. No new matter was added as a result. Dependent claims 23 – 25 depend from allowable claim 21 and dependent claim 26 depends from allowable claim 22, so are allowable for at least these reasons.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons presented above, the Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 21 – 26 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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